

## **Statement of Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.**

### **August 7, 2006**

As a board member of African World Festival, I'm pleased that thousands of people enjoyed themselves at this year's festival, which ended its run yesterday at the Maier Festival Park. However, Milwaukeeans should be made aware that attendance at this important cultural celebration in our city was hurt – substantially – by the Jam 4 Peace concert on Saturday at the Bradley Center put on by Clear Channel and promoted heavily by V-100 Jams. It saddens me to know that Clear Channel and V-100 blatantly disrespect African World Festival by holding such a heavily promoted competing event, and it's clear that by continuing to play derogatory music featuring themes of sex, drugs and violence, V-100 and Clear Channel do not have our community's best interests at heart.

Milwaukee artist Ice Mone, who performed at my Ace Em' Up event on Saturday, was whiteballed by Clear Channel when he arrived at the Bradley Center with his personal friends, rappers the Ying Yang Twins, whom he had picked up at the airport. When Clear Channel management saw Ice Mone inside the Bradley Center, they promptly escorted him out of the building and told him he wasn't welcome. This act of disrespect was clearly done because of Ice Mone's affiliation with me and my event, and because he's also a staunch supporter of African World Festival. By the way, just a day after slashing a gaping hole in the festival's attendance, V-100 showed up on the festival grounds on Sunday, with a noticeably less violent, softer song and music rotation.

Until V-100 and Clear Channel start to abide by my Common Council resolution asking that they play and promote more local artists and feature music that promotes peace, I will continue to ask city residents to hold them accountable by tuning in to alternative stations such as WNOV 860-AM and WMSE 91.7 FM and by avoiding all V-100 promotions. Also, I will work to block ALL live remotes by Clear Channel/V-100 in the 6<sup>th</sup> District until the station lays out a plan to support local artists and promote peace on a regular

(More)

Ald. McGee Statement – Aug. 7, 2006/PAGE TWO

basis – not just when it's convenient for them. Lastly, we will gather signatures in cooperation with UW-Milwaukee Africology Professor Dr. Ahmed Mbalia to demand that V-100 and Clear Channel play more balanced music and dump its rotation of negative and derogatory songs.

###